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Demographic Factors That Influence Youths' Engagement in the Cocoa Production Related Activities as a Business Venture in the Asunafo North Municipal of Ghana

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Abstract

Africa has solidified its position as the world's top cocoa supplier during the past 10 years, with growers in the cocoa belt of West and Central Africa, accounting for almost two-thirds of worldwide production. Despite this, the participation of the youth in Ghana's cocoa value chain activities could be more desirable. The study assessed the youth's involvement in the cocoa production-related activities in the Asunafo North Municipality of the Ahafo Region of Ghana. A structured questionnaire for data collection from 200 youthful farmers was used. It was found that the youth view cocoa farming and its related activities as a profitable business and a source of income; they are willing to stay in the community and engage in the cocoa value chain. A chi-square analysis suggests that this perception has a significant relationship with the demographical features of age, level of education, and, marital status, having siblings engaged in some form of agricultural activities and parents involved in farming activities. More so, most of the youth are desirous of staying in the community and engaging in the cocoa production-related activities, which also has a relationship with age, level of education, marital status, and having siblings and parents involved in agricultural activities. Lastly, regarding the plans, most of them said that they will continue to be in cocoa value chain activities if conditions are better. The paper recommends that COCOBOD (Ghana Cocoa Board), together with the other related NGOs and Ministry of Food and Agriculture, must sensitise the youth on the importance of the agriculture sector in promoting the local economy and enhancing the standard of living of all those engaged in agricultural activities.

Keywords: Cocoa, Production, Value Chain, Youths, Ghana

Introduction

Approximately 40–50 million people in more than 50 nations in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia countries depend on cacao for their livelihood. Africa has solidified its position as the world's top cocoa producer during the past 10 years, and over two-thirds of global cocoa production comes from farmers in West and Central Africa (SCRA Report, 2019). Approximately four million tonnes of cocoa beans have been produced worldwide since 2010 (Voora et al., 2019). Since 2000/2001, African production has increased by 2.7 percent per annum (ICCO 2020). In 2017/2018, Africa's cocoa bean production amounted to around 3.5 million tonnes, with Cote d'Ivoire doubling the volume of cocoa beans in Ghana (Shahbandeh, 2020). In 2019/2020, cocoa beans in Ghana

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were 850,000 tonnes, while Cote d'Ivoire's production amounted to 2,150,000 tonnes (Shahbandeh, 2020).

One of the most important sources of foreign income in many developing nations is the cocoa industry. An estimated 5 million families throughout the world rely on cocoa, and the crop is a vital source of rural jobs (Wessel & Quist-Wessel, 2015; Fairtrade Foundation, 2018; Voora et al., 2019). From 2019 to 2025, the global market for cocoa beans is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.3%, from USD 8.6 billion to USD 16.32 billion (ICCO, 2020). The United Nations Millennium Development Goals state that smallholder producers, who work on farms less than three hectares and make less than USD 2 per capita per day, contributing almost 95% of the world's cocoa (ICCO, 2020). It connects farmers to a global market of consistent and robust demand (ICI, 2011; Wessel & Quist-Wessel, 2015; Fairtrade Foundation, 2018).

Nevertheless, these farmers face challenges such as cocoa crop disease, out-dated farming techniques, limited organisational support, problems relating to education and health, market price volatility, income disparities, ageing cocoa trees, climate change, declining soil fertility, unavailability and high input costs (ICI, 2011; Awuah-Gyawu et al., 2015; Peprah, 2019). Another problem identified over the years is labour, with children and older folks working on cocoa farms (Schrage & Ewing, 2005; ICI, 2019).

Sustainable production of cocoa, exceptionally certified cocoa, whether a mass balance or preservation of identity, heavily depends on the supply chain's efficacy, particularly transport and warehousing from farm to fork (final consumer) (ICCO, 2007). The value chain is increasingly understood as incorporating primary business operations across organisations' networks (Lambert, 2008). Cocoa's value chain encompasses all of the processes and materials required to move cocoa beans from the supply of inputs to the level of the market. Through stakeholder coalitions, there is a demand-driven opportunity to create a functional cocoa value chain that would ensure the industry's supply of "total quality" cocoa while improving socioeconomic advantages for cocoa farmers and their communities (Donnel, 2019).

The overall quality of cocoa is processed to satisfy physical, natural, social and economic sustainability requirements. Partnerships could lead to more productive cocoa production, a rise in cocoa farmers' incomes and a boost to local economic development.

In Ghana, most cocoa farmers are over 50 years old, which raises concerns about the cocoa industry's sustainability (WHO, 2016; Lowe, 2017; Pinet et al., 2020). Cocoa production has been essential to Ghana's economy (Lowe, 2017). In Ghana, cocoa is reported to contribute to 5% of GDP and supports the livelihoods of approximately 4 million farming households (GSS, 2015; Lowe, 2017; Mueller & Thurlow, 2019). Ghana's cocoa is known for its quality and is one of the world's leading producers; however, the production is often low (Lowe, 2017). COCOBOD (Ghana Cocoa Board) has an estimated target of 1,500,000 metric tonnes by 2025 (COCOBOD, 2017).

Youth participation in cocoa farming systems has received research attention in the national and international contexts (Baah, 2004; Baldwin, 2016; Lowe, 2017; Ghanaweb, 2018; Pinet et al., 2020). Young persons and youth are vital to revitalising Ghana's cocoa sector (Lowe, 2017; Pasanen, 2016). The typical Ghanaian cocoa farmer is older than 50, with an average life expectancy of 62 years and cocoa is both a labour and an input-intensive crop (Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, 2015; Lowe, 2017). Therefore, the cocoa sector's revitalisation could boost youth employment, increase rural incomes and raise the Ghanaian economy (Lowe, 2017). Logically, the youth have much strength and can provide the labour needed to revitalise the cocoa sector's value chains, but this is only sometimes the case.

Ghana has greater rates of underemployment than other Sub-Saharan African nations, with over 50% of the workforce underemployed and 12% of the young unemployed (World Bank, 2020). The unemployment issue is that most youths enter the commercial job market searching for office work rather than labour work. As a result, the formal sector can only employ a few youths looking forward to being recruited into these office workers vacant seats. Brooks et al. (2013) revealed that the agricultural sector could employ many youths in Africa, and the industry can remain vacant for even future job searchers. Given this pervasive phenomenon, Ghana's government and development partners have initiated labour market education initiatives to improve young people's human capital (Kluve et al., 2019; Pinet

et al., 2020). Besides, Ghana's government has realised the importance of the agricultural sector in providing job opportunities for the youth. Several programs, including the planting for food for jobs, has been undertaken to help promote the farming sector's functions to increase participation and desire for the industry, especially in rural areas (MoFA, 2017). Cocoa-growing regions are now part of the Next Generation Youth in Cocoa initiative (MASO) Pinet et al., 2020). Despite all these government initiatives, youth participation in the farming sector still needs to grow.

In this light, the paper assessed the youth's perception and willingness to participate cocoa production-related activities in the Asunafo North Municipal of the Ahafo region of Ghana. The Asunafo North was selected for the study because it was one of seven districts chosen in 2008 for the Cadbury Cocoa Alliance initiative "Cocoa Life." In 2016, the Next Generation Youth in Cocoa (MASO) program was piloted in three districts in Ghana's then-Brong Ahafo region. The article looks at how young people in the research region view cocoa production as well as their intentions and willingness to participate in the cocoa value chain. Presentation of the study's contextual background is followed by the methodology, findings and discussion, which are concluded with suggestions.

Methodology

Study Area

In Ghana, Asunafo North Municipality is one of six municipalities and districts in the Ahafo Region and one of 254 Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) (Ghana Districts, 2018). Dating back to 1912, this was one of the original districts established in the modern-day Brong Ahafo area. Goaso serves as the municipality's capital (Ghana Districts, 2018). Located between latitudes 6°27°N and 7°N and longitudes 2°52°W, the Asunafo North Municipality shares borders with the northeastern Asutifi South District, the northwest Dormaa Central Municipal District, the western Juaboso District, and Sefwi-Wiawso Municipal District on the

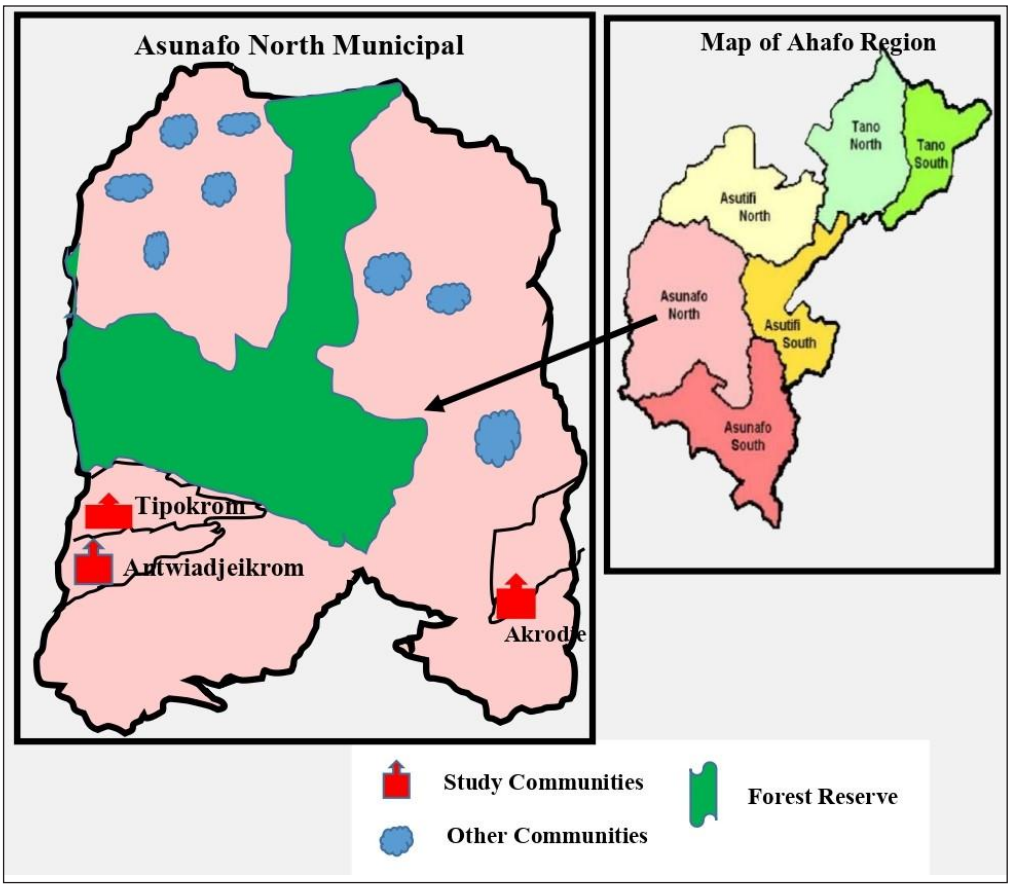

Fig. 1: A Map Outlining the Research Area

west and south and the southeast Brong Ahafo District of Asunafo South on the southeast (Ghana Districts, 2018). The metropolitan assembly area is measured at 1093.7 km^2, of which forest reserves protect 389.7 km^2. The total population in respect of the area was estimated at 194,685, of which 62,854 are men and 61,831 are women, based on the Census of Population and Housing 2010 report (Ghana Districts, 2018). The map showing the study areas is covered in Fig. 1.

Research Design

The research design explains the researcher's general methodology to attaining the established goals of the study. This includes analysis profiles, sample size, data sources and how data is gathered and analysed (Baxter, 2003). Study architecture can be divided into three approaches based on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods (Creswell, 2007). A quantitative analysis methodology was used in the study to examine youth perception and willingness to participate in the Cocoa Value Chain in the Asunafo North Municipality of the Ahafo District of Ghana. According to Creswell and Plano (2011), quantitative research has always been the pivot of social science research because it seeks to eliminate biases, is emotionally detached and uninvolved with the study objects (see Babbie et al., 2003; Johnson & Onvwueghuzie, 2004). This makes quantitative research very important by ensuring neutrality. The study also employed a cross-sectional design to assess the youth's participation in the Cocoa Value Chain in the Asunafo North Municipal of the Ahafo Region of Ghana—the cross-sectional design collected closed-ended data in response to the various research questions.

Study Population and Sampling Technique

The target population was limited to three communities: Akrodie, Antwiagyeikrom and Tipokrom, since most youths are found within such areas, as indicated in the 2010 population and housing census. The inclusion criteria for selecting the target population includes i) the participants must be 20 years or older at the time of the survey, and ii) the participant must have lived in the district for over five years and be physically fit.

In situations where resources are scarce, samples are picked using either probability or non-probability sampling (Saunders et al., 2009). Copper and Schneider (2005) state that the following is a mathematical formula for calculating sample size:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N\,(\alpha)^{2}}$$

Where α is the error or confidence level and N represents the population as a whole. To guarantee accurate sample results, the standard 95% confidence level was applied. This meant that the error term was 0.05. The 124,685 total populations and an error margin of 0.07 were used to determine the sample size. Where e is the error or significance threshold, n is the sample size and N is the sample frame.

$$n = \frac{124{,}685}{1 + 124{,}685\,(0.07)^{2}}$$

$$n = \frac{124{,}685}{1 + 124{,}685\,(0.0049)}$$

$$n = 03.7$$

Therefore, N = 203.7 out of the 124,685 youth population in Asunafo North. According to the formula, approximately 204 samples were selected; however, only 200 respondents were used for the analysis because data saturation was achieved. Techniques for non-probability sampling make it possible to collect more responders in the smallest amount of time. Both quota and convenience sampling methods were introduced for this study to determine the respondents' more extensive coverage. The communities under analysis were classified into the quota, and a convenient sampling method was used in each quota to pick the respondents. In Table 1, the approximate sample size has been further elucidated.

Table 1: Sample Size Estimation Based on Population Size

Community/Town	*Population*	*Sample Size Estimation*	*Category of Respondents*	*Age Distribution (Years)*	*Quota of Respondents*			*Total Quota of Respondents*
					Akrodie	*Tipokrom*	*Antwiagyeikrom*	
Akrodie	785	$\frac{785}{1579}$ X 200	Youth farmers who own cocoa farms	20-35	8	6	6	20
			Youth who are cocoa tenants, farmers	20-35	5	5	5	15
			Youth who work on parents' farms	20-35	15	7	8	30
			Youth who sell agro-inputs	20-35	4	3	3	10
			Youth who are non-cocoa farmers	20-35	5	5	5	15
Tipokrom	385	$\frac{385}{1579}$ X 200	Youth engaged in govt. cocoa initiative programmes	20-35	10	8	7	25
			Youth who are cocoa-purchasing clerks	20-35	4	3	3	10
Antwiagyeikrom	405	$\frac{405}{1579}$ X 200	Adult cocoa farmers	40 and above	28	5	7	40
			Adult non-cocoa farmers	40 years and above	20	9	6	35
Total	1579				99	51	50	200

Data Collection, Analysis and Ethical Consideration

The study relied predominantly on primary data. A survey questionnaire was the main instrument used to gather preliminary data for the research. Questionnaires were used for this study because they are the cheapest way to collect data, considering the population's size. Questionnaires take a short period to gather information from a larger population. The answers to the questionnaire were also collected to make it more objective and standardised. Careful attention was given to the respondents' questions to enable them to be as objective as possible. Due to their efficiency, generalisability and versatility, survey questionnaires have become popular.

According to Sullivan (2001), statistical techniques are employed in quantitative data analysis to accurately code, examine and condense the data in order to characterise the subject of the study. Microsoft Excel and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0 programs were utilised to collect and analyse the data. The following analyses were performed: a chi-square test of associations and frequency, and results were presented using tables.

The study followed strict ethical rules through the following measures: To ensure confidentiality, the researcher adequately guided respondents and their identities were kept secure. The data that was extracted was treated with the utmost confidentiality. Because respondents were asked voluntarily to answer questions, the highest level of tolerance was guaranteed. Over the course of the study, much caution was used by getting participants feedback before releasing the questionnaires.

Reliability and Validity

Validity and reliability assessments were ensured to enhance the quality of the research instrument. According to Polit and Hungler (1993), reliability defines the research instrument's ability to consistently measure what it intended to measure. During the study's reliability test, inaccurate information was significantly reduced to reliable information. As the administrator, the researcher made sure the questionnaires were uniform and included the precise traits of the participants, including avoiding partiality and ensuring friendliness. Participants were given questionnaires in a psychologically and physically secure setting that guaranteed privacy, confidentiality and overall comfort. Because their questionnaires did not require respondents' names, confidentiality was maintained.

According to Polit and Hungler (1993), an instrument's validity is defined as its capacity to measure variables that are beyond its measurable range. The degree to which a tool validates the variables being studied is known as content validity. To determine content validity, a variety of questions were collected. The study's questions were derived from the literature analysis to reflect the information that participants wanted to gauge young people's involvement in the cocoa value chain. The content validity of the questionnaires was made possible by consistency. The individuals were personally interviewed by the researcher with a purpose. In order to convey the precise meaning of the questions, the questionnaires were designed using straightforward language. The researcher was accessible throughout the administration procedures because instructions were given for individuals who struggled with reading (Creswell, 2003).

The Demographic Profile of the Participants

The sex distribution of the study respondents is 86% males and 14% females. Concerning age, 28% are in the age range of 25–29 years, 20% are in 30–35 years and 15% are in the age range of 20–24. Fifty-one per cent of the respondents were married, and 47% were unmarried. At the educational level, 38% of the respondents were primary school graduates, 29% had no formal education and 5% of the respondent's % was secondary school graduates. Most respondents (47%) indicated their household size was 4–6. Moreover, 57% of the participants reported working as employees on their parents' farm but were unpaid, and 15% were into other non-agriculture-related businesses.

Results and Discussion

Youths' Perception of Cocoa Production and Related Activities as Businesses and Sources of Income

The paper considers how the youth perceive cocoa production and related activities as businesses and sources of income, according to their age, marital status, education, siblings and parents involved in cocoa farming. Table 2 shows the results of the youth's perception of cocoa and its value chain as a business and a source of income. The results show that this perception is significantly affected by age, level of education, marital status, having siblings engaged in some form of agricultural activities and parents involved in agricultural activities. The outcomes show that most of the young people in the various age brackets of the respondents agree or strongly perceive that cocoa and its related activities are businesses and sources of income. Most youths below 35 (66%) agree or strongly agree that cocoa and its associated activities are businesses and sources of income. At the same time, those above 35 years are neutral, suggesting a positive perception of the youth regarding relying on cocoa and its value chain as a business and source of income. The result is consistent with Adebayo et al. (2012), who have reported that the youthful age group is developing a taste for agricultural activities. Also, Baffoe-Asare et al. (2013) and Anim-Kwapong et al. (2005) have argued that some training programs by organisations like COCOBOD have helped promote youth involvement in agricultural-related activities in Ghana.

More males than females think of cocoa and its related activities as businesses and sources of income. The majority of the respondents who also think of cocoa and its associated activities as businesses and sources of income are those whose parents/guardians are involved in farming. Closer relations engaged in agricultural activities are likely to positively influence the perception of one forms (Azjen, 2012). It also supports earlier findings that many youths are introduced to cocoa farming early in their lives by their parents to ignite their interest in them (Onumah et al., 2013; Lowe, 2017).

Also, 45.5% of married people agree or strongly agree that cocoa and its related activities are businesses and sources of income, and 35.5% of single, windowed or separated people think the same. The above aligns with Adebayo et al. (2012), who argue that most farmers, particularly in Africa, are married. Marriage offers the youth an avenue to have more helping hands to support the cocoa value chain activities.

Table 2: The Perception of Youth about Cocoa and Its Related Activities as Businesses and Sources of Income

Demographic Factors	*Frequencies*			*Chi-Square (χ^2)*	*p-Value*
	Neutral (19.5%)	*Agree (40.0%)*	*Strongly Agree (40.5%)*		
Age range				20.099	0.010
20 -24 years	12	11	6		
25 - 29 years	7	25	24		
30 - 34 years	7	12	21		
35 - 39 years	6	19	9		
40 years and above	7	13	21		
Marital status				15.565	0.016
Single	27	35	31		
Married	12	45	46		
Separated	0	0	2		
Widow/er	0	0	2		
Gender				0.566	0.754
Male	34	67	71		
Female	5	13	10		
Highest educational level				14.088	0.080
No education	13	19	26		
Primary	14	32	31		
Secondary (SHS)	0	5	5		
Certificate	0	8	10		

Demographic Factors	Frequencies			Chi-Square (χ^2)	p-Value
	Neutral (19.5%)	Agree (40.0%)	Strongly Agree (40.5%)		
Household size				5.739	0.220
Below 3	12	11	15		
4-6	14	40	41		
7-10	13	29	25		
Siblings engaged in any kind of farming				7.268	0.026
Yes	38	69	64		
No	1	11	17		
Parent/guardian involved in farming				7.421	0.024
Yes	39	74	69		
No	0	6	12		

Youths Desire to Remain in the Community and Work in Cocoa-Related Businesses

In Table 3, age, marital status, education and household size, siblings and parents' involvement in agricultural-related activities have some bearing on the desire of the youth to remain in the community and work in cocoa-related businesses. Specifically, the results show that older youths expressed more willingness to stay in the community and work in cocoa-related businesses than younger ones. The finding could be attributed to the fact that the younger ones are generally adventurous (Gardiner et al., 2023; Ajaero et al., 2018) and may be willing to explore other areas. The married and single have a higher response than the separated and widowed on the desire to remain in the community and work in cocoa-related business than the widowed and the separated. The possible reason may be that the widowed and separated are not happy with the conditions they find themselves in after the demise of their spouses or their separation. Alternatively, some marriages might have sent them to the towns, so they may want to go elsewhere once they are no longer united with their spouse.

Youths with larger family sizes show a greater desire to remain in the community and work in cocoa-related businesses than those with smaller families. Such youths may have developed a stronger bond with these members and received diverse support from them on many occasions. As a result, they would want to stay with them and continue to enjoy their company. Such findings can also be linked with past studies that show that farmers tend to have large household sizes (Abdul-Rahaman, 2023; Gebre et al., 2023; Hlatshwayo et al., 2023).

Also, those with parents/guardians and siblings engaged in agricultural activities are willing to remain in the community and work in cocoa-related businesses. Similarly, because these youths have their parents involved in farming, they feel obliged to stay in the community for their cocoa-related activities.

Table 3: The Desire of the Youth to Remain in the Community and Work in Cocoa-Related Businesses

Demographic Factors	Frequencies N=162	Chi-Square (χ^2)	p-Value
Age		56.495	0.000
20 to 24 years	22		
25 to 29 years	28		
30 to 34 years	37		
35 to 39 years	34		
40 years and above	41		
Marital status		39.519	0.000
Single	92		

Demographic Factors	*Frequencies N=162*	*Chi-Square (χ^2)*	*p-Value*
Married	66		
Separated	2		
Widowed	2		
Gender		0.125	0.724
Male	140		
Female	22		
Highest educational level		40.169	0.000
No education	58		
Primary	62		
Secondary (SHS)	4		
Certificate	8		
Degree	30		
Household size of parent		11.277	0.004
Below 3	38		
4-6	74		
7-10	50		
Siblings engaged in any kind of farming		144.598	0.000
Yes	162		
No	0		
Parent/guardian involved in farming		84.326	0.000
Yes	162		
No	0		

Youths Perception on the Plans to Engage in Cocoa Production in the Future

The study again aimed to ascertain the youth's plans and identify those who want to continue engaging in cocoa-related activities. The results show that while some expressed that they plan to expand and manage their job, other than cocoa-related elsewhere, or have a job with stable income; some indicated they plan to stay and engage in cocoa-related activities provided conditions are good. Some want to live in urban areas that offer different opportunities and services. However, regarding age, many respondents (56.5%) indicated they plan to stay and engage in cocoa-related activities provided conditions are good. Nevertheless, there are a higher number of those above 35 years than below.

On the other hand, more of the younger youth expressed their readiness to move to the urban areas, depicting youthful exuberance that can push the youth to urban areas in the future (Adah et al., 2023; Alexandr & Emmanuel, 2023) instead of staying and working in cocoa-related activities in the community. It also points to the fact that the economic viability of cocoa-related activities has kept many of the youth in the community. Thus, so long as the cocoa value chain remains a source of income for people, many youths will be willing to engage in it. The reason can be applied to the other findings (Hanlon & Smart, 2013; Yoshida et al., 2018; Ikhsan et al., 2023).

For marital status, the singles, separated and widowed, indicated they would be involved in cocoa-related activities provided conditions were good. Most youths with primary or no education responded and shared that they would be involved in cocoa-related activities provided conditions were better than those with higher education. Respondents with smaller household sizes and those with family members engaged in agricultural activities want to be involved in cocoa-related activities, provided conditions are good.

Table 4: The Plans of the Young People to Engage in Cocoa Farming in the Future

Demographic Factors	*Frequencies, N= 200*				*Chi-Square (χ^2)*	*p-Value*
	Successfully Expand and Manage Own Job Other than Cocoa-Related Elsewhere	*Have a Job with a Stable Income*	*Stay and Engage in Cocoa-Related Activities, Provided Conditions are Good*	*Reside in Cities, which are Thought to Provide a Wide Range of Opportunities and Services*		
Age					152.04	0.000
20 to 24 years	0	0	12	17		
25 to 29 years	28	9	4	15		
30 to 34 years	2	1	32	5		
35 to 39 years	0	0	25	9		
40 years and above	0	0	40	1		
Marital status					49.643	0.000
Single	0	0	67	26		
Married	30	10	42	21		
Separated	0	0	2	0		
Widower	0	0	2	0		
Gender					9.378	0.025
Male	30	10	91	41		
Female	0	0	22	6		
Highest educational level					153.151	0.000
No education	0	0	41	17		
Primary	0	7	60	10		
Secondary (SHS)	10	0	0	0		
Certificate	10	0	8	0		
Degree	10	3	4	20		
Household Size					84.157	0.000
Below 3	0	0	21	17		
4-6	3	10	72	10		
7-10	27	0	20	20		
Is any sibling engaged in farming?					143.806	0.000
Yes	11	0	113	47		
No	19	10	0	0		
Is your parent/guardian involved in farming					112.088	0.000
Yes	12	10	113	47		
No	18	0	0	0		
Youth perceive agriculture to be a profitable business					70.510	0.000
Disagree	0	0	1	2		
Neutral	0	2	13	30		
Agree	24	8	77	12		
Strongly agree	6	0	22	3		

Conclusion and Policy Implications

Even though Ghana's cocoa sector has numerous benefits to offer the country, the youth's participation has remained a challenge. If not addressed, this situation may have consequences for the industry that has supported Ghana's economy in diverse ways. This study was carried out to shade policy direction with the following objectives: to assess the perception the youth have about cocoa farming and its related activities and the relationship with their background; to identify the youths that are desirous to remain in the community and engage in the cocoa value chain, and the relationship with their background: and to assess the plans of the youth and the relationship with their background. Two hundred youths were sampled from Asunafo North Municipality of the Ahafo District of Ghana was used for analysis.

The key findings are that the youth in this area view cocoa farming and its related activities as a profitable business and a source of income. A chi-square analysis suggests that this perception has a significant relationship with demographical features of age, level of education, marital status, having siblings engaged in some form of agricultural activities and parents involved in farming activities. More so, the majority of the youth are desirous to stay in the community and engage in the cocoa value chain, which also has a relationship with age, level of education, marital status, having siblings engaged in some form of agricultural activities and parents involved in farming activities. Lastly, regarding the plans, most said they will continue to be cocoa value chain activities if conditions are better.

The general implications of the findings are that authorities in the cocoa sector need to make cocoa farming attractive to the youth in the study area and other areas. COCOBOD must take advantage of the youth's physical and mental strength to ensure that attractive interventional programs are sustained to help keep the youth in agricultural programs and attract prospective young cocoa farmers. This can be approached by addressing the numerous challenges that confront cocoa farmers difficulty in assessing financial assistance and land tenure issues.

Furthermore, the government (COCOBOD), together with the other related NGOs and Ministry of Food and Agriculture, must organise effective campaigns targeted at young people through mediums such as youth forums, radio, television programs and other platforms to sensitise the youth on the importance of the agriculture sector in promoting the local economy and also enhancing the standard of living of all those engaged in agricultural activities.

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Appendix: Questionnaires for the Respondents

This questionnaire is designed to collect data to establish factors influencing youth participation in Cocoa value chain activities in Asunafo North Municipal of the Ahafo Region of Ghana which will be published later. The data shall be used for academic purpose only, and it will be treated with the confidentiality it deserves. The respondents are highly encouraged and persuaded to respond to this questionnaire's statements most truthfully and objectively possible. Your participation in facilitating this study will be highly appreciated. As such feel free to answer the questions.

Kindly ticks in the space provided [ ] the correct answer or supplied the required information where required; please specify and elaborate.

Sr. No.	*Questions and Filters*	*Coding Categories*	*Code*	*Comments*
1	Please indicate your age bracket	15 to 19 years	1	[ ]
		20 to 24 years	2	[ ]
		25 to 29 years	3	[ ]
		30 to 35 years	4	[ ]
		36 to 45 years	5	[ ]
		46 to 55 years	6	[ ]
		55 years and above	7	[ ]
2	Please indicate your gender	Male	1	[ ]
		Female	2	[ ]
3	Please indicate your marital status	Single	1	[ ]
		Married	2	[ ]
		Separated	3	[ ]
		Windowed	4	[ ]
		Divorced	5	[ ]
4	What is your highest level of formal Education	No education	1	[ ]
		Primary / JHS	2	[ ]
		Secondary(SHS)	3	[ ]
		Certificate	4	[ ]
		Diploma	5	[ ]
		Degree	6	[ ]
		Masters	7	[ ]
		PhD	8	[ ]
5	What is the size of your parent's/Guardian's household (HH)?	Fill in the exact HH size number		[ ]
6	Is your parent/guardian involved in	Yes	1	[ ]
7	If your parent/guardian is involved in farming, what is the nature of involvement?	Full-time basis	1	[ ]
		Part-time basis	2	[ ]
8	Do you have siblings who are involved in any form of agricultural activities?	Yes	1	[ ]
		No	2	[ ]

Sr. No.	*Questions and Filters*	*Coding Categories*	*Code*	*Comments*
9	Do you want to stay in this community and work in a Cocoa-related business?	Yes	1	[ ]
		No	2	[ ]
10	What is your wish for the future??	Successfully expand and manage own job other than cocoa related elsewhere, State job and place……..	1	[ ]
		Have a job with a stable income	2	[ ]
		Stay and engage in cocoa related activities provided conditions are right.	3	[ ]
		live in urban areas, places perceived to offer all sorts of different opportunities and services despite recognizing that urban life is more expensive and may require specific skills	4	[ ]
		explicit wish to quit cocoa related activity in search of better opportunities regardless of weather conditions improve in this rural village	5	[ ]
		marry and start their own family	6	[ ]